JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
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MAR 97
GRANT MORRISON
HOWARD PORTER
JOHN DELL
WHO CAN SAVE YOU NOW?!
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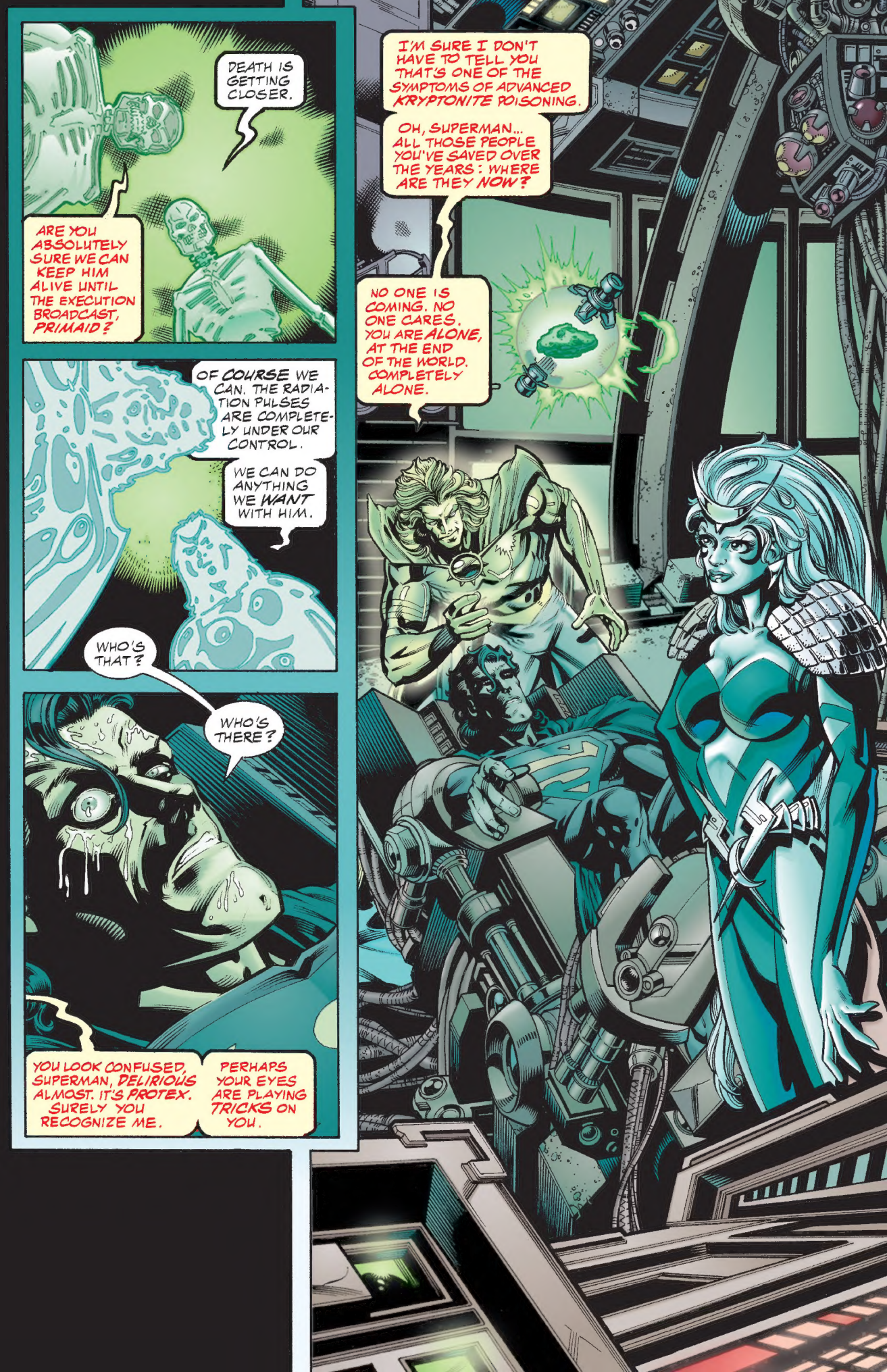
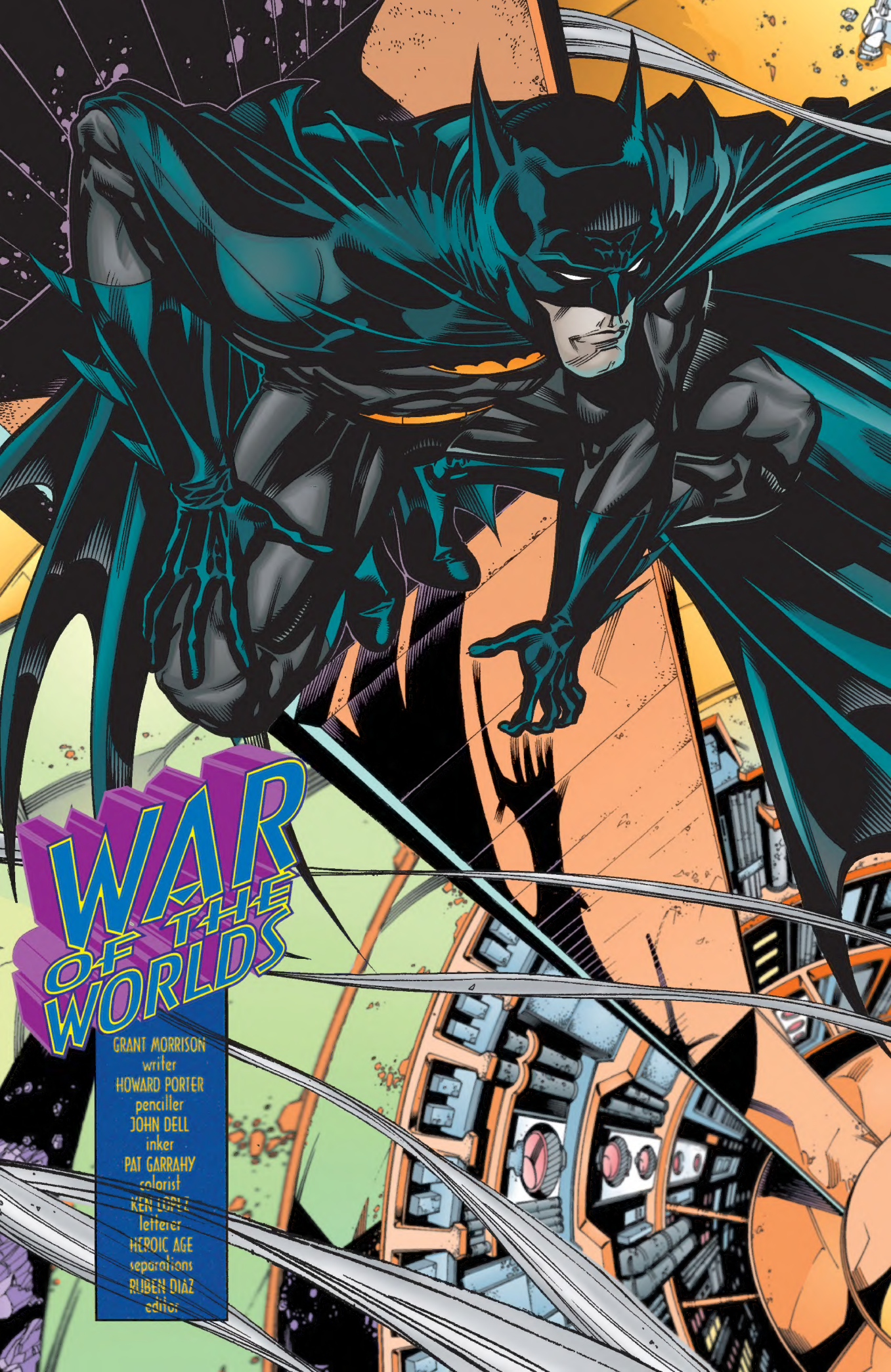

DEATH IS GETTING CLOSER.
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE WE CAN KEEP HIM ALIVE UNTIL THE EXECUTION BROADCAST, PRIMAID?
OF COURSE WE CAN. THE RADIATION PULSES ARE COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL.
WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT WITH HIM.
WHO'S THAT?
WHO'S THERE?
YOU LOOK CONFUSED, SUPERMAN, DELIRIOUS ALMOST. IT'S PROTEX. SURELY YOU RECOGNIZE ME.
PERHAPS YOUR EYES ARE PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU.
I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT'S ONE OF THE SYMPTOMS OF ADVANCED KRYPTONITE POISONING.
OH, SUPERMAN... ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU'VE SAVED OVER THE YEARS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
NO ONE IS COMING. NO ONE CARES. YOU ARE ALONE, AT THE END OF THE WORLD. COMPLETELY ALONE.


WAR OF THE WORLDS
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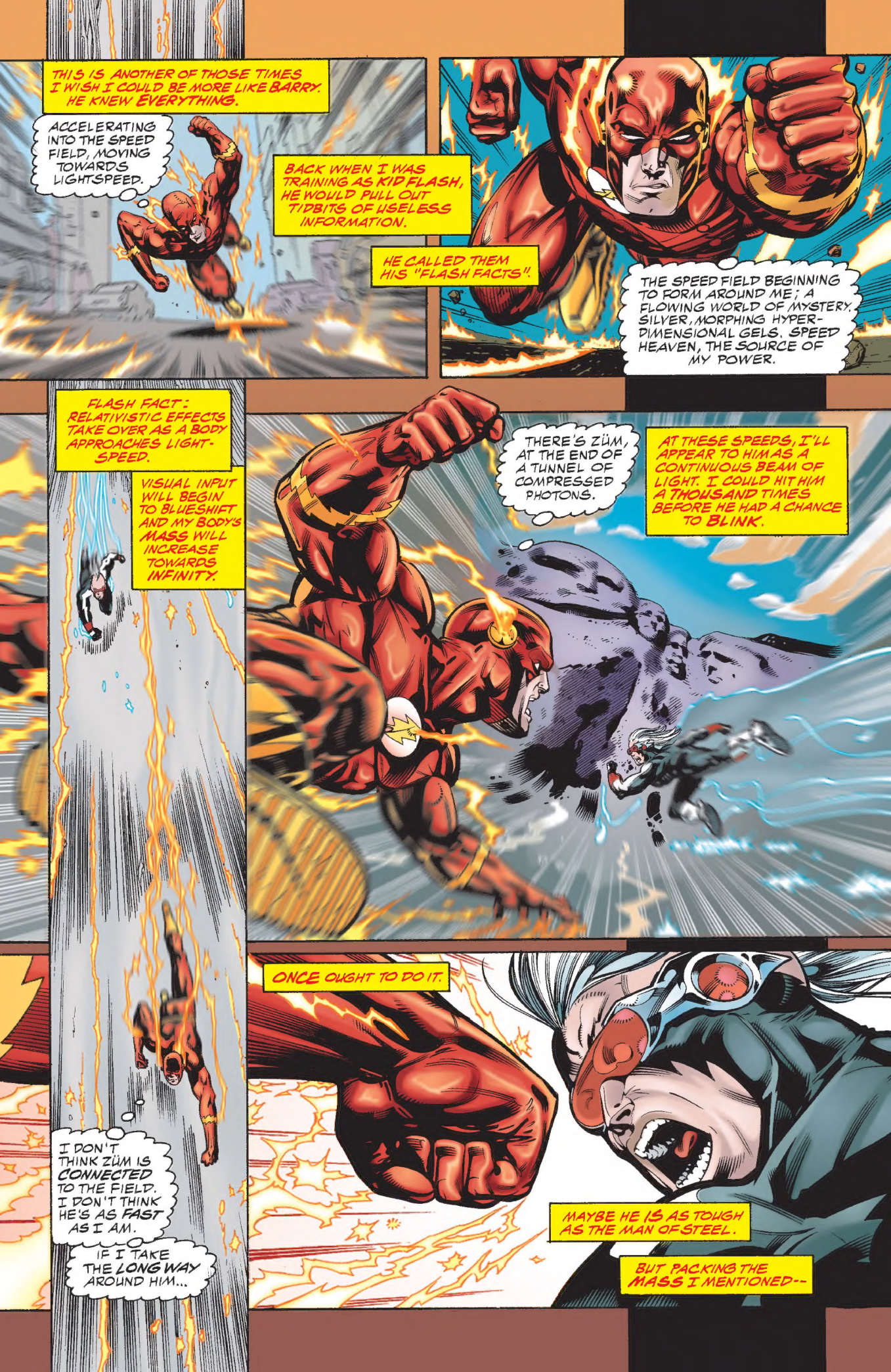
THE HYPERCLAN THINKS I'M DEAD.
THAT GIVES ME AN EDGE.
I'M "ONLY HUMAN"; THEY DON'T BELIEVE I CAN PENETRATE THEIR STRONGHOLD. THEY DON'T BELIEVE I POSE A THREAT.
WRONG.
THE WRECK OF MY PLANE PROVIDED ME WITH EVERYTHING I NEED, INCLUDING THE ONE CLUE THAT MAKES THEM VULNERABLE.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY COME FROM.
ALERT!
I KNOW WHO THEY ARE.
AND I'M COMING IN.

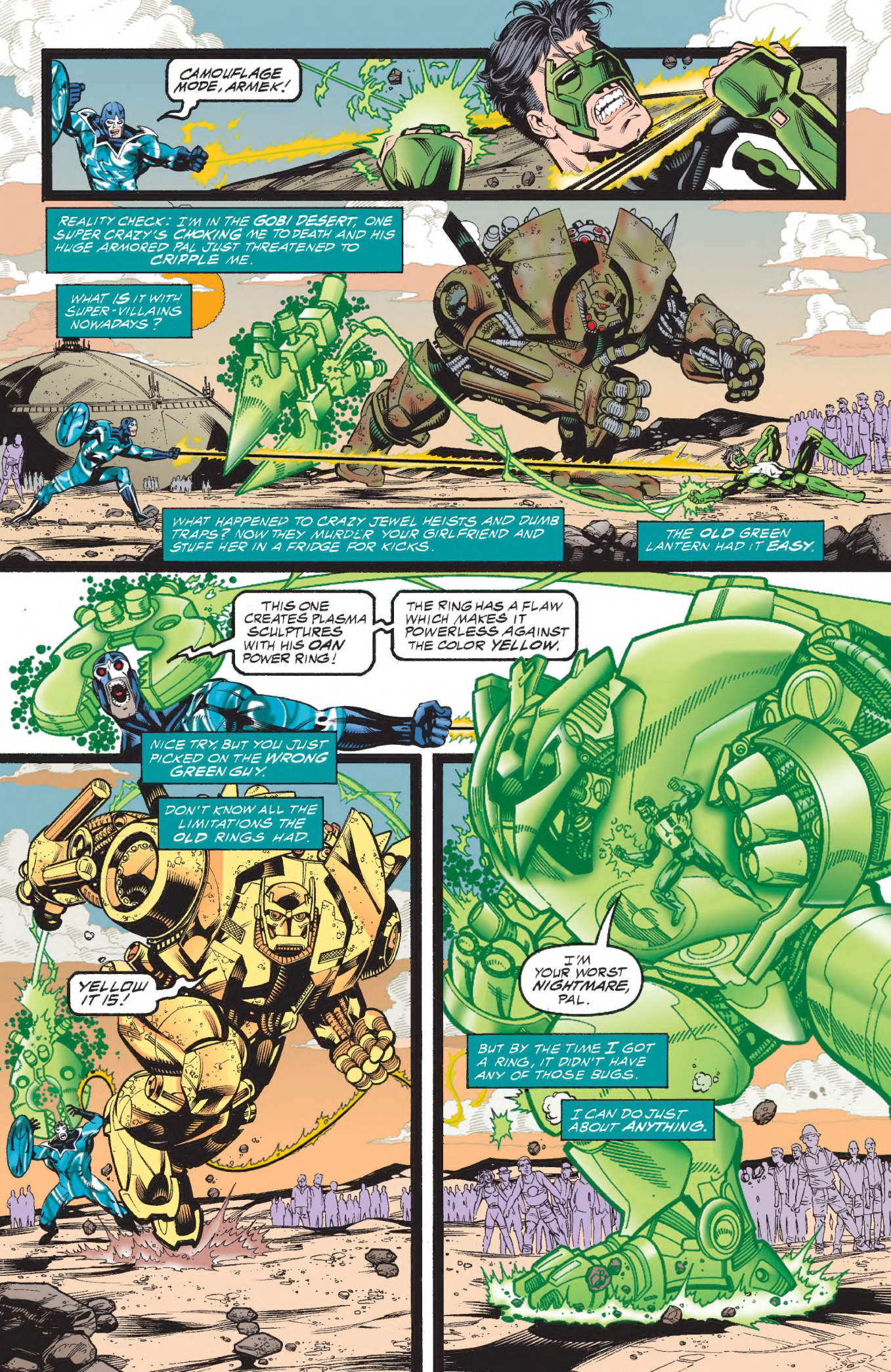
MY NAME'S WALLY WEST. I'M THE FLASH. I WAS THE FASTEST MAN ON EARTH.
UNTIL HE TOUCHED DOWN.
ZÜM, ONE OF A BUNCH OF SUPER-POWERED ALIENS CALLED THE HYPERCLAN WHO'VE FOOLED EVERYONE INTO THINKING THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS.
UNLIKE KNOW-MAN'S GANG HE'S REAL--AND FAST.
REALLY.
VENICE BEACH
REALLY FAST.
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT I WAS DEALING WITH.
WHAT IS THAT HE'S DOING?

FROM WHAT WE CAN FIGURE, ALL OF THESE GUYS HAVE POWERS IN THE SUPERMAN CLASS AND THEN SOME!
BRICKS. HE MUST HAVE GRABBED THEM FROM THAT BUILDING SITE IN BEIJING.
VIBRATING THROUGH THEM WOULD LEAVE BEHIND A SWARM OF ACCELERATED-MOLECULE GRENADES.
GET THE FEELING ZÜM HAS SOME MILITARY TRAINING--USING SUPERSPEED IN A TACTICAL WAY.
IF I DON'T START THINKING THE WAY HE DOES, I'M IN TROUBLE.
JUST RUNNING FAST ISN'T GOING TO GET ME THROUGH THIS ONE. ZÜM'S SMART.
DOZENS OF HIM. MODULATING THE FREQUENCY OF HIS AFTERIMAGES TO CREATE A STROBE FLICKER.
FREQUENCIES MESSING WITH MY HEAD.
DON'T LOSE IT, WEST. BREAK THE RHYTHM.
I NEED STRATEGY. I NEED TRICKS. I NEED TO REMEMBER MY SCIENCE OR I'M HISTORY.


THIS IS ANOTHER OF THOSE TIMES I WISH I COULD BE MORE LIKE BARRY. HE KNEW EVERYTHING.
ACCELERATING INTO THE SPEED FIELD, MOVING TOWARDS LIGHTSPEED.
BACK WHEN I WAS TRAINING AS KID FLASH, HE WOULD PULL OUT TIDBITS OF USELESS INFORMATION.
HE CALLED THEM HIS "FLASH FACTS".
THE SPEED FIELD BEGINNING TO FORM AROUND ME; A FLOWING WORLD OF MYSTERY. SILVER, MORPHING HYPER-DIMENSIONAL GELS. SPEED HEAVEN, THE SOURCE OF MY POWER.
FLASH FACT: RELATIVISTIC EFFECTS TAKE OVER AS A BODY APPROACHES LIGHT-SPEED.
VISUAL INPUT WILL BEGIN TO BLUESHIFT AND MY BODY'S MASS WILL INCREASE TOWARDS INFINITY.
THERE'S ZÜM, AT THE END OF A TUNNEL OF COMPRESSED PHOTONS.
AT THESE SPEEDS, I'LL APPEAR TO HIM AS A CONTINUOUS BEAM OF LIGHT. I COULD HIT HIM A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO BLINK.
I DON'T THINK ZÜM IS CONNECTED TO THE FIELD. I DON'T THINK HE'S AS FAST AS I AM.
IF I TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND HIM...
ONCE OUGHT TO DO IT.
MAYBE HE IS AS TOUGH AS THE MAN OF STEEL.
BUT PACKING THE MASS I MENTIONED--

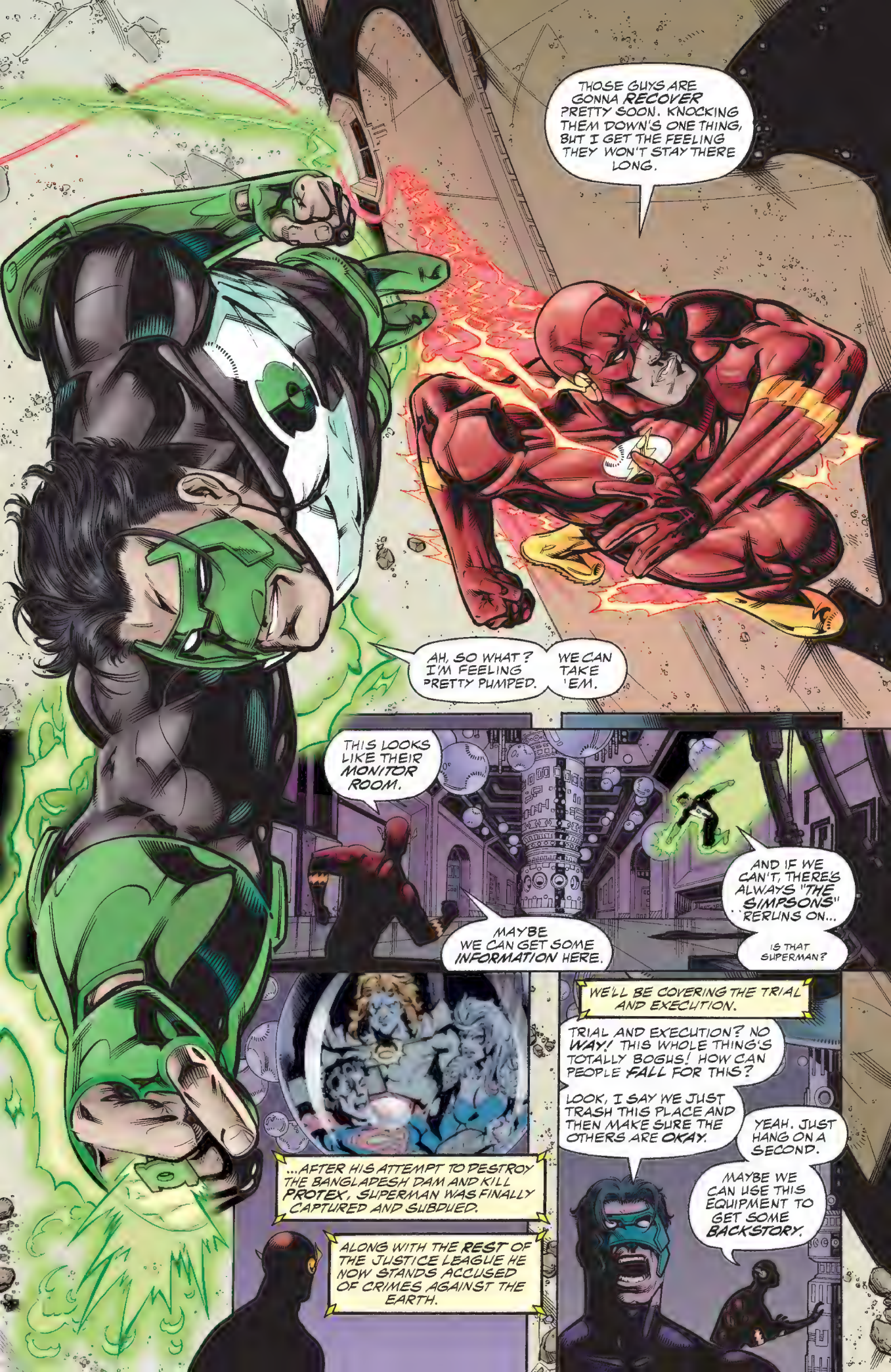
I'M SURE HE FELT THAT.
WONDER HOW FAST HE'S TRAVELLING. AT LEAST SEVEN MILES PER SECOND.
THAT'S ESCAPE VELOCITY, BY THE WAY.
FLASH FACT.

WOH!
LINDA WOULD LOVE THIS POT; I'D STAY TO HAGGLE BUT I'M FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY.
GOTTA RUN.

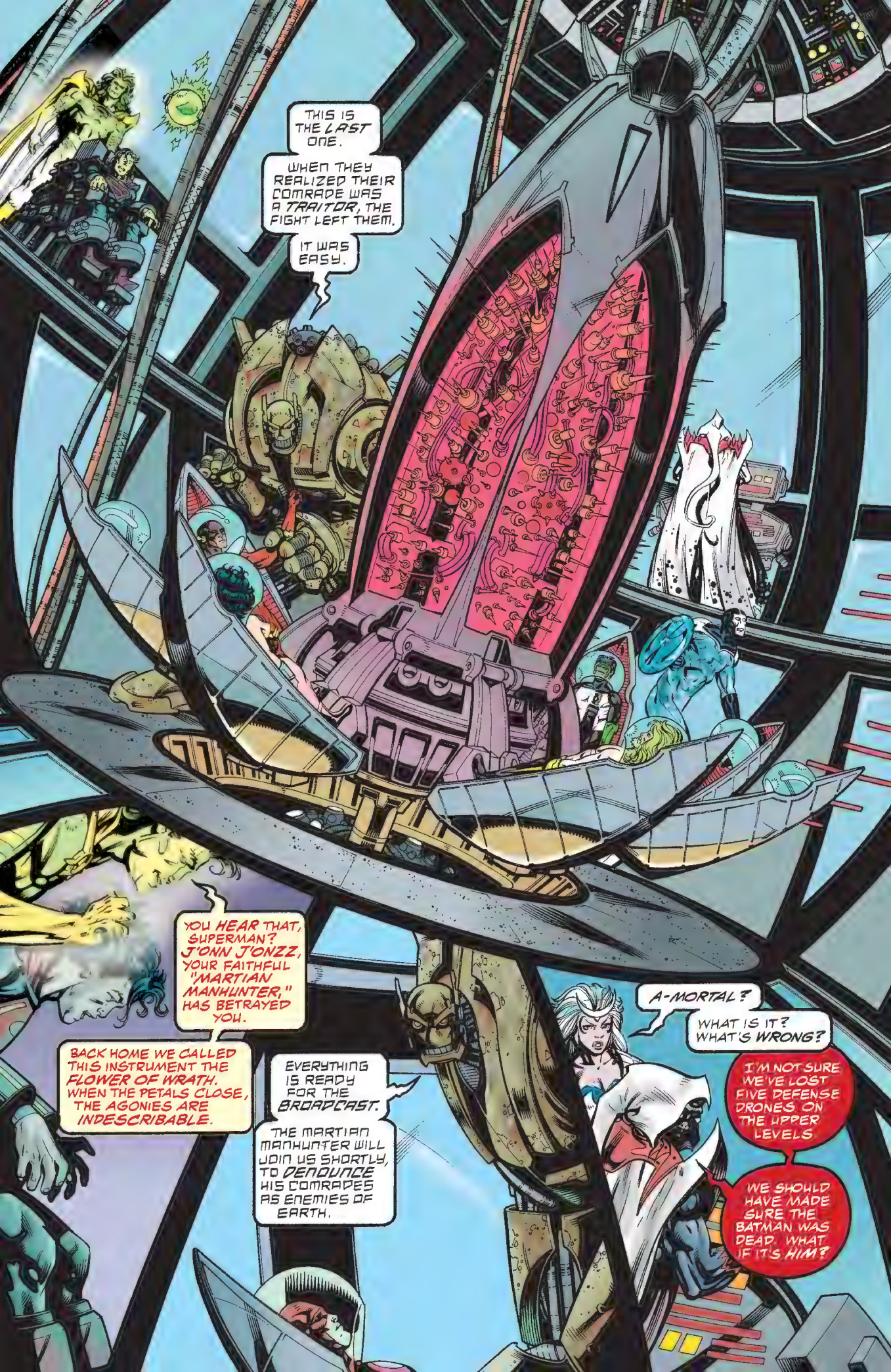

CAMOUFLAGE MODE, ARMEK!
REALITY CHECK: I'M IN THE GOBI DESERT, ONE SUPER CRAZY'S CHOKING ME TO DEATH AND HIS HUGE ARMORED PAL JUST THREATENED TO CRIPPLE ME.
WHAT IS IT WITH SUPER-VILLAINS NOWADAYS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO CRAZY JEWEL HEISTS AND DUMB TRAPS? NOW THEY MURDER YOUR GIRLFRIEND AND STUFF HER IN A FRIDGE FOR KICKS.
THE OLD GREEN LANTERN HAD IT EASY.
THIS ONE CREATES PLASMA SCULPTURES WITH HIS OAN POWER RING!
THE RING HAS A FLAW WHICH MAKES IT POWERLESS AGAINST THE COLOR YELLOW.
NICE TRY, BUT YOU JUST PICKED ON THE WRONG GREEN GUY.
DON'T KNOW ALL THE LIMITATIONS THE OLD RINGS HAD.
YELLOW IT IS!
I'M YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE, PAL.
BUT BY THE TIME I GOT A RING, IT DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE BUGS.
I CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

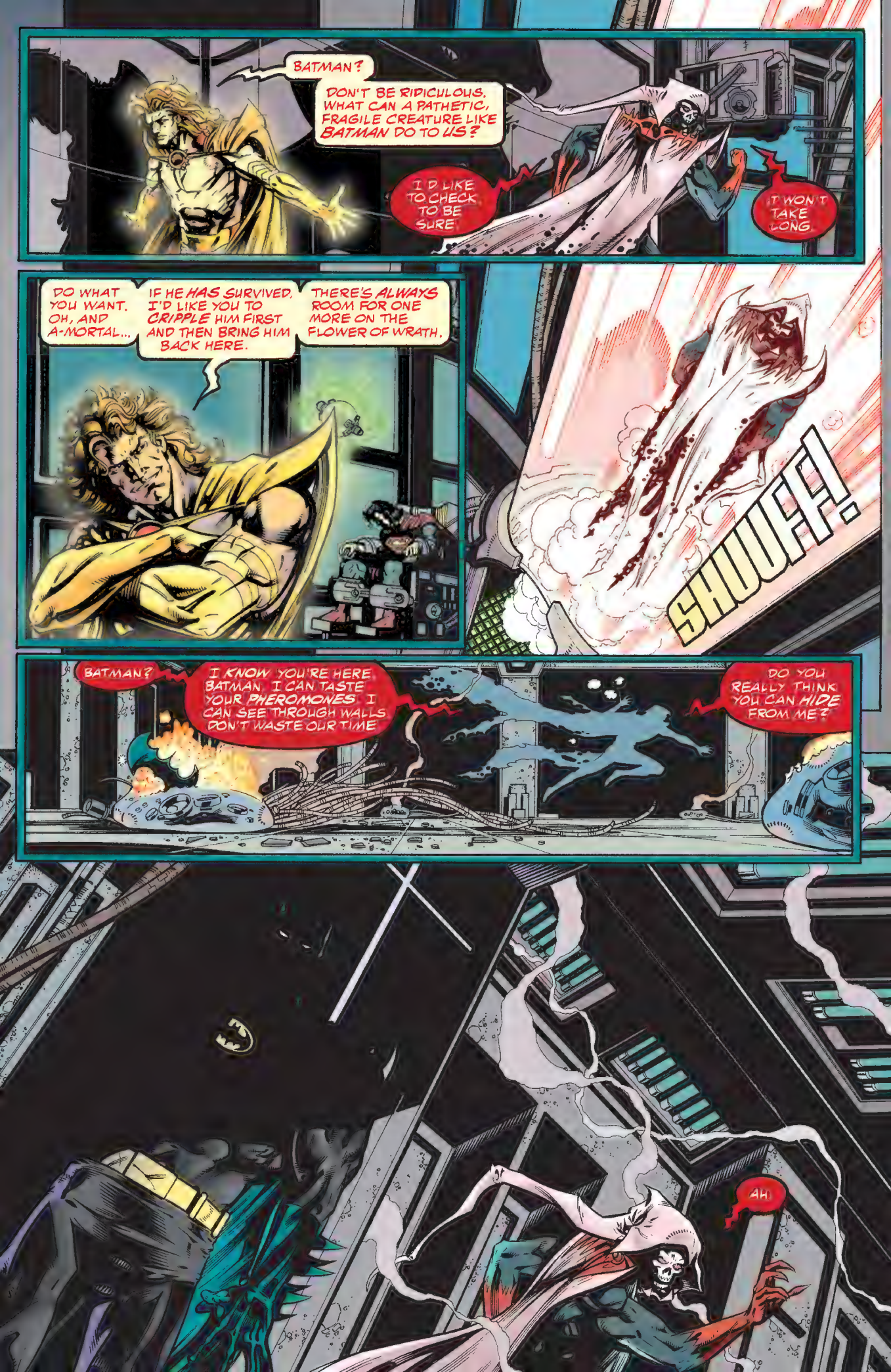
KROOM
A MANGA NUT WITH A POWER RING.
HE HURT ARMEK AND ZENTURION! HE'S ONE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
KILL HIM!
I'D PREFER. HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU, GREEN LANTERN?
OKAY, I KNOW THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST VICTIMS OF THE HYPERCLAN'S MIND CONTROL TRANSMITTERS
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO LET THEM LYNCH ME!
SHAAAAANG!
RULE NUMBER ONE IN THE "HOW TO BE A SUPERHERO" GUIDEBOOK.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE BAD GUY.
OH N...
THAT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE SAVED YOUR BUTT TODAY, GANGRENE.
HEY! HE CAN RUN FAST AND COUNT. RENAISSANCE MAN!
THE NAME'S GREEN LANTERN, OKAY?
LET'S GET INTO THAT TRANSMITTING STATION AND CAUSE SOME DAMAGE.
SURE. AND I'M CINDY CRAWFORD.
AFTER YOU, MISS CRAWFORD.

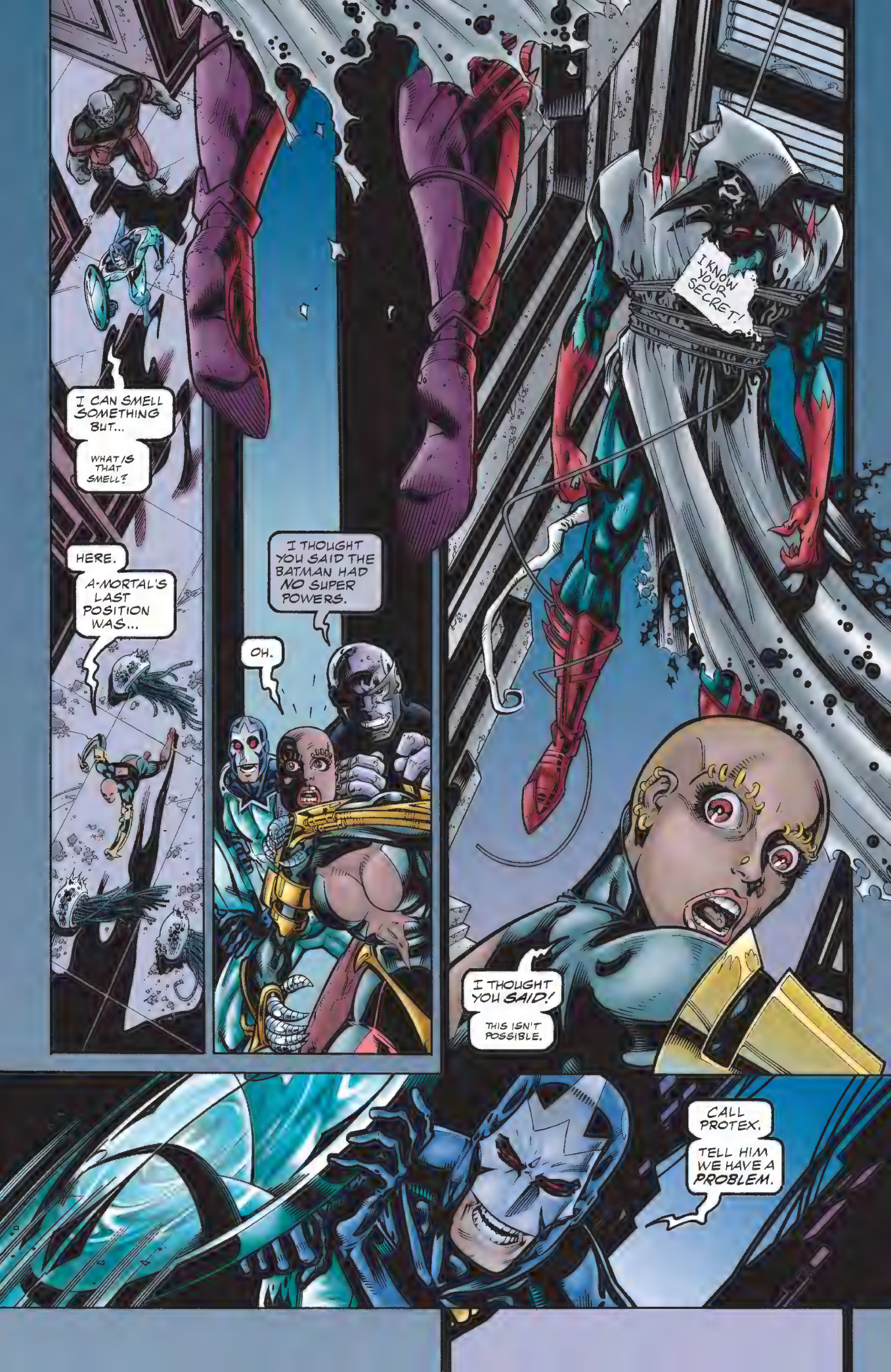

THOSE GUYS ARE GONNA RECOVER PRETTY SOON. KNOCKING THEM DOWN'S ONE THING, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY WON'T STAY THERE LONG.
AH, SO WHAT? I'M FEELING PRETTY PUMPED.
WE CAN TAKE 'EM.
THIS LOOKS LIKE THEIR MONITOR ROOM.
MAYBE WE CAN GET SOME INFORMATION HERE.
AND IF WE CAN'T, THERE'S ALWAYS "THE SIMPSONS" RERUNS ON...
IS THAT SUPERMAN?
...AFTER HIS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE BANGLADESH DAM AND KILL PROTEX, SUPERMAN WAS FINALLY CAPTURED AND SUBDUED.
ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HE NOW STANDS ACCUSED OF CRIMES AGAINST THE EARTH.
WE'LL BE COVERING THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION.
TRIAL AND EXECUTION? NO WAY! THIS WHOLE THING'S TOTALLY BOGUS! HOW CAN PEOPLE FALL FOR THIS?
LOOK, I SAY WE JUST TRASH THIS PLACE AND THEN MAKE SURE THE OTHERS ARE OKAY.
YEAH. JUST HANG ON A SECOND.
MAYBE WE CAN USE THIS EQUIPMENT TO GET SOME BACKSTORY.

OKAY. WE'VE GOT THE POSITIONS OF THEIR ORBITAL TRANSMITTERS.
CHECK THIS OUT. THEY'RE NOT IN NORMAL SPACE. THAT'S WHY WE COULDN'T FIND THEM. THEY'RE HIDDEN IN... WELL, HYPER-SPACE OR SOMETHING.
SO THAT'S HOW THE GUYS WHO ATTACKED THE SATELLITE WERE ABLE TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE.
HOW DID YOU GET THAT THING TO WORK FIRST TIME?
I DIDN'T. I JUST TRIED A THOUSAND DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS AT SUPER-SPEED.
THE GUYS YOU FOUGHT IN SPACE HAD POWERS, RIGHT?
SO WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE OF THEM IS WHAT I'M SAYING. WHAT IF THOSE TRANSMITTERS ARE SHIPS? WHAT IF THE HYPERCLAN ARE ONLY THE ADVANCE PARTY?
THERE COULD BE DOZENS MORE. IF THIS IS AN INVASION FORCE, WE'RE IN TROUBLE...
YES.
AH.
I'M AFRAID YOU ARE IN TROUBLE, FLASH.


THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
WHEN THEY REALIZED THEIR COMRADE WAS A TRAITOR, THE FIGHT LEFT THEM.
IT WAS EASY.
YOU HEAR THAT, SUPERMAN? J'ONN J'ONZZ, YOUR FAITHFUL "MARTIAN MANHUNTER," HAS BETRAYED YOU.
BACK HOME WE CALLED THIS INSTRUMENT THE FLOWER OF WRATH. WHEN THE PETALS CLOSE, THE AGONIES ARE INDESCRIBABLE.
EVERYTHING IS READY FOR THE BROADCAST.
THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER WILL JOIN US SHORTLY, TO DENOUNCE HIS COMRADES AS ENEMIES OF EARTH.
A-MORTAL?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M NOT SURE WE'VE LOST FIVE DEFENSE DRONES ON THE UPPER LEVELS
WE SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE THE BATMAN WAS DEAD. WHAT IF IT'S HIM?


BATMAN?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. WHAT CAN A PATHETIC, FRAGILE CREATURE LIKE BATMAN DO TO US?
I'D LIKE TO CHECK TO BE SURE.
IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
DO WHAT YOU WANT. OH, AND A-MORTAL...
IF HE HAS SURVIVED, I'D LIKE YOU TO CRIPPLE HIM FIRST AND THEN BRING HIM BACK HERE.
THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE ON THE FLOWER OF WRATH.
SHUUF!
BATMAN?
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE, BATMAN. I CAN TASTE YOUR PHEROMONES. I CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS. DON'T WASTE OUR TIME.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME?
AH!

IT SEEMS ALMOST A SHAME TO DESTROY THIS ONE...
STILL. THE WHOLE WORLD IS CALLING FOR YOUR DEATHS, SUPERMAN, AND WE INTEND TO OBLIGE.
THEN, WHEN YOU ARE GONE, WE WILL SHOW OUR TRUE FACES TO THE WORLD. OUR SHIPS WILL COME FROM THE SKIES.
AND THE RIVERS WILL RUN RED WITH THE BLOOD OF MANKIND.
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
A-MORTAL HASN'T REPORTED BACK...
OOH, THIS BATMAN MUST BE TOUGHER THAN WE THINK.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW TOUGH.
THIS IS INSANE! WE MUST HAVE A COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE! A-MORTAL'S PLAYING SOME KIND OF STUPID JOKE!
BATMAN! BATMAN!
HE'S ONLY A MAN!


I KNOW YOUR SECRET!
I CAN SMELL SOMETHING BUT...
WHAT IS THAT SMELL?
HERE.
A-MORTAL'S LAST POSITION WAS...
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE BATMAN HAD NO SUPER POWERS.
OH.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID!
THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE.
CALL PROTEX.
TELL HIM WE HAVE A PROBLEM.

WELL...
GUESS WHOSE LUCK JUST RAN OUT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO BEAT A-MORTAL BUT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE YOU APART, LITTLE MAN. CELL BY CELL.
I HOPE YOU'RE READY.
ANY LAST WORDS?
ONE OR TWO. SUPER-STRENGTH, FLIGHT, INVULNERABILITY, SHAPE-CHANGING, MIND CONTROL: YOU'RE MARTIANS, AREN'T YOU?
AND WHEN YOU BROUGHT DOWN MY AIRCRAFT YOU DIDN'T DARE SEARCH THE WRECKAGE BECAUSE OF THE ONE THING WHICH ROBS YOUR PEOPLE OF THEIR POWERS.
FIRE.
THAT'S...AH... THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING THEORY...
ARE YOU...REALLY GOING TO TRY TO STOP US WITH ONE TINY FLAME?...
SKRITT
YOU CAN'T HARM US WITH THAT...
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
UHH!
TRONIX! THAT SMELL!
I KNOW WHAT THAT SMELL IS!

GASOLINE.
NOOOO!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
DO SOMETHING!
FWUUUUFF!
READY WHEN YOU ARE.

TRONIX! FLUXUS!
WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE?
ZENTURION!
HE'S ONLY ONE MAN!
THE MOST... UH... DANGEROUS MAN ON EARTH...
YOUR PUH-PLANS... ARE... FALLING APART... PROTEX
I DON'T THINK SO.
ARMEK! ACTIVATE THE FLOWER OF WRATH! KILL THE HUMANS!
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE...
KRAK
WATCH THIS!
THIS IS YOUR COMMANDER! EMERGENCY CODE T'ANN T'AZZ!
TARGET EARTH'S CITIES! INITIATE OPERATION HARD RAIN!
SEVENTY MORE OF US, SUPERMAN! ALL WITH THE POWER TO LEVEL MOUNTAINS!
SEVENTY MORE!

THE GODS HAVE COME TO LAY WASTE THE WORLD!
WE WIN!
WE WIN!
NEXT: INVADERS FROM MARS!